

Spotted knapweed eradication: Building successful partnerships between local, federal, and private entities

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What's so special about this project?

- **Strength of collaborations**
- **Partnership to secure funding**



The Villain

- **Spotted knapweed**
A-rated pest by CDFA
- **Aggressive invader**
- **Can produce 400,000 seeds per plant**



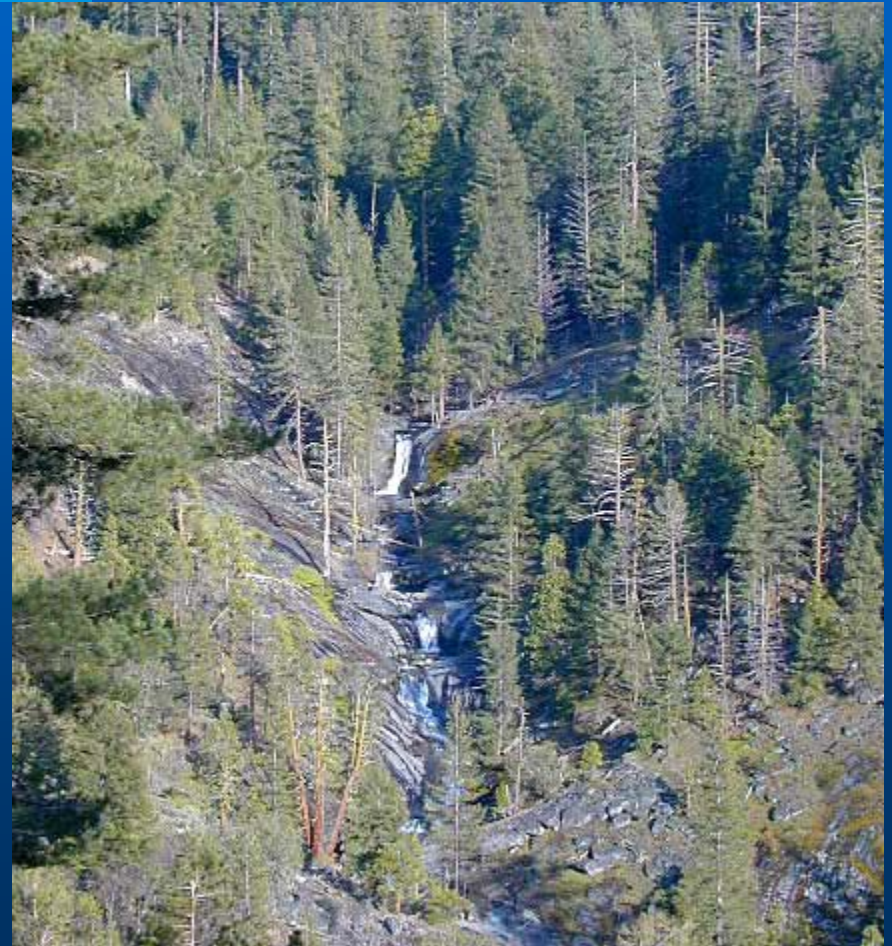
Aggressive Invader



- Spotted knapweed arrived on the west coast in 1893.
- By 1920, had established itself in 24 counties, in 3 states
- Now, Spotted knapweed has established itself in almost every County in the Western U.S.
- In Montana alone 5 million acres have been invaded



Project Background



Steep Terrain



Debris



Project Background

- **Weed Management Area Emergency Project Team**
 - Sierra Pacific Industries
 - Eldorado National Forest
 - El Dorado Co. Dept of Agriculture
 - Local Native Plant Society

Project Goals and Objectives

- **Survey and mapping plan**
- **Eradication plan**
- **Funding strategy**



Project Activities

During 2002:

- **Removed debris and limbed trees**
- **Delimitation survey**
- **Mechanical control**



Strength of Partnerships



Before Clearing



After Clearing

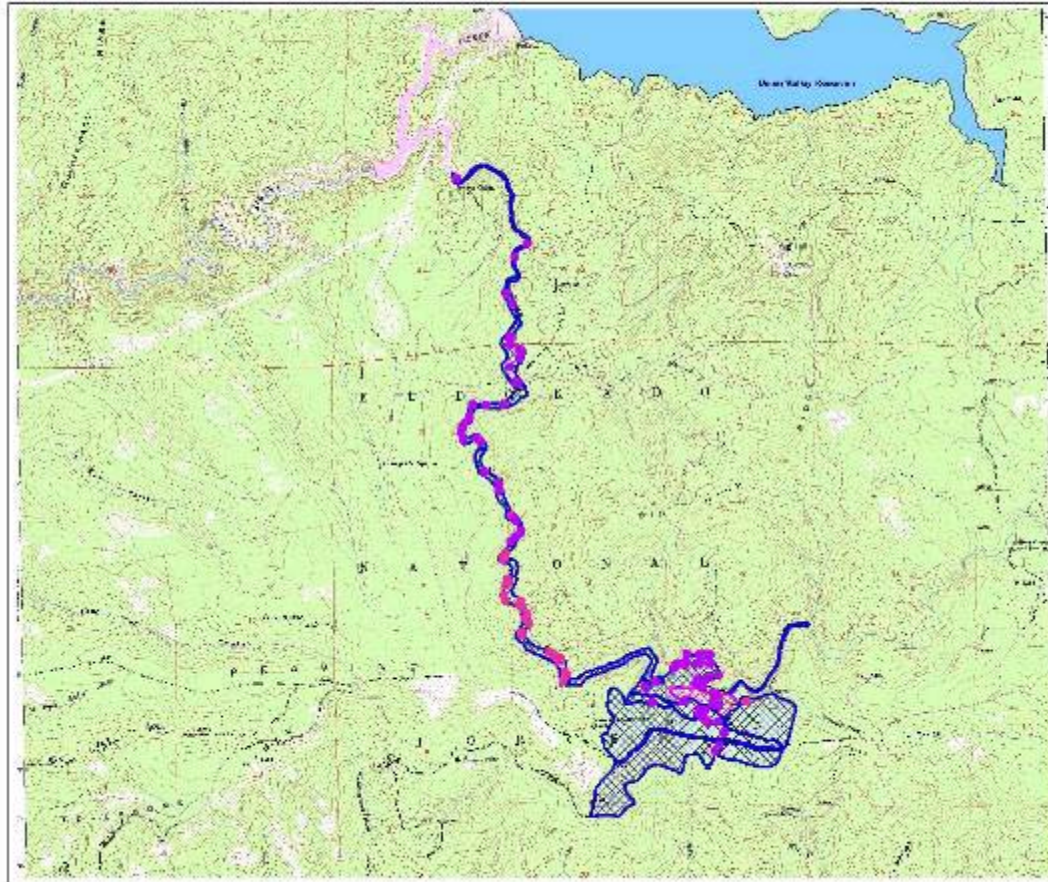








Cleveland Fire Area: Spotted Knapweed Eradication Project



141 infestation sites documented in 2002

Project Activities

Completed by team - Winter 2002:

- **Expand eradication strategy**
- **Defined IPM treatment methods**
- **Established treatment zones**



Land Ownership

In 2002

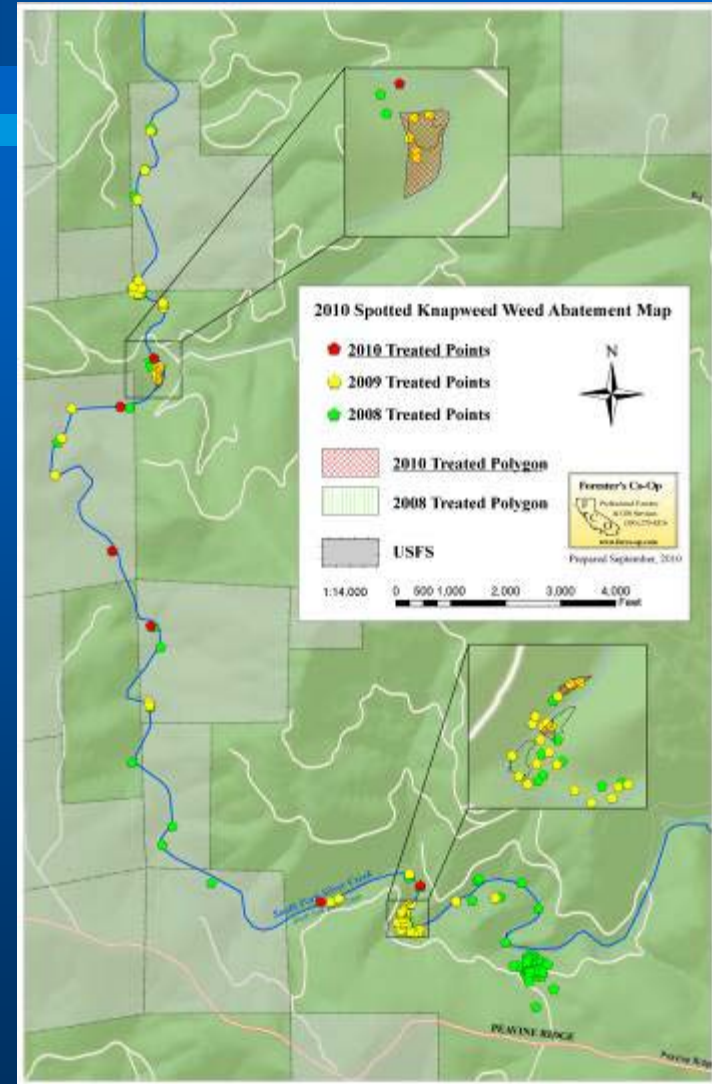
Spotted knapweed

found on USFS

property.

No environmental

Documents in place.



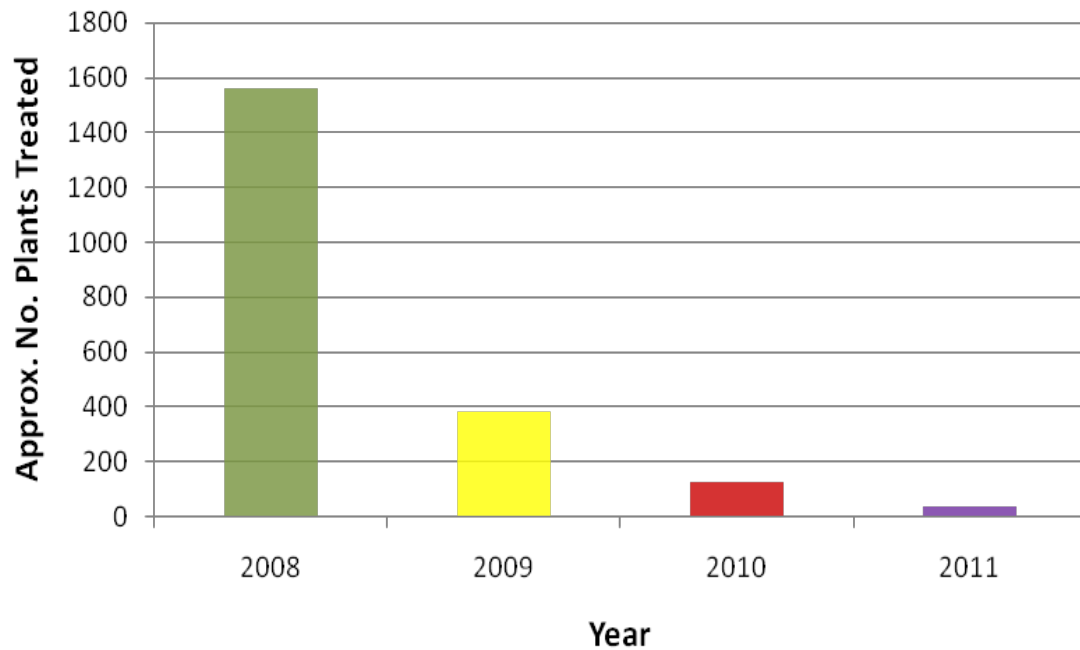
Project Activities

2003 Activities:

- Environmental Assessment – USFS
- Eradication
- Survey and mapping
92 sites in 2003



Cleveland Fire: Approx. Number of SKW Plants Treated by Forester's Co-Op 2008-2011



Education and Outreach

- Media Outreach
- Posted Signs
- Distribution of fliers to the public

Weed Awareness

El Dorado County Resource Conservation Group, Invasive Plant Management Program (2010-2011-2012)

Why Do We Care About Invasive Weeds?

Invasive weeds are non-native plants that are pests. They threaten ecosystems and have the potential to alter the landscape by:

- displacing native plants
- increasing wildlife habitat
- reducing recreational values and uses
- contributing to soil erosion and stream bank destabilization
- threatening agricultural production, including timber production

Spotted Knapweed Eradication Cleveland Fire Area

Spotted knapweed has been reintroduced and is spreading in the El Dorado National Forest and Cleveland Fire Area, California. The Cleveland Fire Area is a 10,000-acre area within the El Dorado National Forest and is a critical watershed for the region. The area is a high priority for weed management and the removal of spotted knapweed is a top priority for the area.

Spotted knapweed is a highly invasive California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) priority weed. It is a highly competitive and prolific invader that can displace native plants and reduce biodiversity. In 2010, the weed was detected and treatment began with manual pulling and herbicide application. The weed is highly competitive and prolific, and its removal is a high priority for the area.

Spotted knapweed is a highly invasive California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) priority weed. It is a highly competitive and prolific invader that can displace native plants and reduce biodiversity. In 2010, the weed was detected and treatment began with manual pulling and herbicide application. The weed is highly competitive and prolific, and its removal is a high priority for the area.



The eradication of spotted knapweed continues to be a top priority of the El Dorado County Resource Conservation Group. Because spotted knapweed is a highly competitive and prolific invader, its removal is a high priority for the area. The weed is highly competitive and prolific, and its removal is a high priority for the area.

Funding for the eradication project has been provided by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Private Industry. Private industry, including the El Dorado County Resource Conservation Group, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Agriculture, California National Forest and El Dorado County Resource Conservation Group.

Prevention

Prevention

\$450,000 Spent to Date



Thank You!